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Many African Americans leave churches for mosques

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Suleiman Aziz gave up Christianity to become a Muslim for lots of reasons.

Growing up a black Baptist in Nashville he said he never saw a biblical character in church literature that wasn't white. Also the various denominations seemed to give a confusing picture about just who Jesus is. Is he God, or son of God? Perhaps most of all, church was attended mostly by women. Where were the men?

"In Islam, I found a stronger ideal of brotherhood and moral discipline — and of manhood. Muhammad was a man just like us, and still he led a life that was pleasing to God," said Aziz, 37, a businessman who left the church by age 18.

Aziz's story could be multiplied by the thousands in America,

and that's what worries African-American church leaders.

Though black churches remain a thriving institution, the conversion of black males to the religion of Islam poses a worrisome threat as the century winds down, according to a new national report.

"It is already clear that in Islam the historic black church denominations will be faced with a far more serious and more powerful competitor for the souls of black folk than the white churches ever were," said church historians Eric Lincoln of Duke University and Lawrence Mamiya of Vassar College, writing in the new *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches* 1993.

Church life among African Americans is by no means eroding, according to scholars Lincoln and Mamiya: 78% of the black

population claims church membership, and attendance among blacks is slightly higher than whites.

But nearly 90% of converts to Islam in the United States are African-American men, a statistic that doesn't surprise Amiri al-Hadid, a Nashville sociologist who is himself a Muslim convert.

"Islam teaches self-defense. It teaches knowledge and discipline, and the African-American male needs discipline. But there isn't an ambience of guilt. In church, there's sadness, a sense of guilt, the need to repent, an emotional environment. But men are just not going to cry in public. Islam

appeals to your reasoning. It encourages a rational relation with God, not an emotional one."

Some Christian ministers find the issue of male conversion to Islam too sensitive to talk about, but others confirm the trend.

"The reason we're losing a lot of our kids to Islam is they don't perceive Christianity as active enough," said Avery Blakeney, pastor of Messiah Baptist Church in Nashville.

Blakeney, 40, said churches must teach that a relationship with Christ transforms lives and that a turn-the-other-cheek ethic is the only way to break the world's

cycle of violence.

With an estimated 6 million adherents, about 1 million or more reported to be blacks, Islam is now the second-largest religion in the United States — behind Christianity but slightly ahead of Judaism.

The conversion rate among African-American women is slower, some local Muslim men note. While Islam teaches high respect for women, they are not allowed to lead prayers at Friday prayers. Women and men are to sit separately when attending public prayers.

Waddle writes for the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN.

Baptists starting more black churches

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptists should more than double their annual number of new congregations in African-American communities within two years, said the Home Mission Board's director of black church extension.

"By the end of 1995, we'll (have) over 300 new black congregations a year," predicted Willie McPherson during Black Church Week at the Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

In 1992, Southern Baptists gained 117 new black works, a 48% increase compared to 1991 when they had 79 new works.

While an earlier goal of 5,000 total black congregations by the year 2000 has not been abandoned, McPherson said it is more reasonable to expect more than 3,000 congregations by then.

Currently, 1,353 predominately black Southern Baptist congregations exist, and 15 black church starters received assistance from

the HMB last year, he said.

Before 1989, the Home Mission Board housed a Black Church Relations Department, which networked with mostly black non-Southern Baptist denominations and churches. In 1989, the board transformed that department into black church extension, with an emphasis on starting black Southern Baptist churches.

Anglo churches are showing a greater awareness for the need to spread the gospel in African-American communities, said McPherson and others. "Most black (Southern Baptist) church starts are being sponsored by white congregations," he said.

Added Dick Brogan, director of black church extension, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board: "It's happening in Mississippi in places I never thought it would happen."

While some white pastors still harbor paternalistic instincts, many

churches are working "brother-to-brother," McPherson said. "People are just purely concerned about lost folk and they don't care who they are."

Although they have a relatively short history, black Southern Baptist churches already are showing signs of strength, said Tom Kelly, director of black church extension for the California Southern Baptist Convention. He noted 15 of California's 25 leading churches in baptisms last year were predominantly black.

Starting churches in black communities is no different from starting them in white communities, said HMB black church extension associate director Michael Thurman.

"There's not a lot of difference in people. When you talk about church planting, you're talking about reaching people where they are," he said. "People are hurting, black, white, Oriental, Hispanic."



Twelve Mississippians recently attended the Black Church Development Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Assembly. Over 1,500 joined these Mississippians for training, fellowship, and inspiration. The 1994 conference is set for July 2-8 at Ridgecrest Assembly, according to Richard Brogan, consultant of black church extension with the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Romanians protest election

KISHINEV, Moldova (ABP) — Romanian Baptists boycotted a recent European Baptist Federation meeting to protest the election of a woman as president of the federation. Birgit Karlsson, an ordained minister in the Swedish Baptist Union, was installed as president during the Sept. 18-26 meeting of the 100-member council of the European Baptist Federation. She has served as general secretary of the Swedish union for 10 years. A letter from Romanian Baptist leaders explained they consider the ordination of women as pastors to be "unbiblical." Both parties said they do not want the dispute to affect the relationship between Romanian Baptists and the EBF. That relationship has endured other strains in the past. At last year's council meeting, the Romanians cast the only dissenting vote to a partnership agreement between the EBF and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which last year began sending missionaries to Europe.

Vaiden celebrates 150th

Vaiden Church, Vaiden, will observe its 150th anniversary Oct. 31. The day's celebration will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11. Joe Cooper, former pastor, will be the guest speaker, and Ronnie Hunsinger, former music director, will lead the music. Afternoon services at 1:30 will follow a fellowship meal at noon. A time capsule burial will conclude the day. Leon Holly is pastor; Joe Styron is minister of music.



Looking back...

50 years ago

Southern Baptists will comprise the largest voting bloc in the Mississippi House of Representatives when the legislature convenes in January 1944. A survey indicates that 68 Southern Baptists will serve in the lower chamber for the upcoming session.

20 years ago

Union Church near Picayune approves a gift for rebuilding the state Baptist campground destroyed in 1969 by Hurricane Camille, and passes a resolution that the facility be moved inland from the Gulfshore property to avoid future hurricane damage.

10 years ago

Steven R. Wilkinson of Gulfport, a master of divinity student at Southwestern Seminary, is recognized as a Presidential Scholar by seminary President Russell Dilday. Wilkinson will receive a \$750 scholarship along with the recognition.

Thursday, October 21, 1993

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Synergism

Once upon a time there was a horse pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, another 8,000. Together you would expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. Not so. When teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds. The principle is called synergism. By definition, the simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in a team effort than can be accomplished solo (**National Association of Evangelicals Newsletter**).

The secret word is cooperation. The genius of the Cooperative Program since 1925 is cooperation. This trust and confidence has built our denomination, enabling us to place 4,000 missionaries in 129 countries, and another 4,000 in home missions.

The spirit of cooperation works in a local church. Think of the work being done in your church. Who teaches your children, trains your choirs, visits the hospitals, the shut-ins, and keeps the ministries going throughout the com-

munity? Your association and the director of missions depend on cooperation. We can do together what we cannot do alone. Our whole system is dependent on cooperation. The principle of synergism is still much in demand.

October is Cooperative Program month. Hopefully staff members and lay leaders will see it as an opportunity to inform the membership of how our work is supported. Cut out your channel for world ministries and you will cut the amount of all other offerings. People give to ministries not to pay debts. Also, it is a good time to talk about synergistic power in your congregation. People working together can have an impact that will be life changing and eternal.

J. Terry Young, in his book, **The Church — Alive and Growing**, asks the question, "What makes a great church?" Churches differ in personality and character just as individuals do. Most churches are good, but just average. Occasionally we find a church which is outstanding. The difference is "spiritual depth and more effectiveness in

its ministry." It reaches more people and does more with the ones it reaches. Mission concern, calling out the called as preachers and missionaries, and a plus quality lacking in many churches, are plainly visible. Young speaks of seven needful things: an effective pastor, a spiritually-minded people, a broad Christian objective, a good fellowship, an effective program, capable leadership, and a good functioning organization.

Note please the necessity of cooperation in all the above characteristics. **The Book of Church Growth** by Thomas S. Ranier observes the early church where the "prayers of the powerless" defeated all the weapons of the world. What is the first step you would take toward growing a church? "My answer is consistent: start a prayer ministry."

Is there such a thing as synergism in prayer? The 120 disciples in the upper room thought so. Solo praying is good; a congregation, linked together in love, can bring heaven down. Placing our spiritual weight together can tilt the scales.

Ethics & Religion

Church reforms could cut divorce rate 15% in one year

By Michael McManus

Last of a 7-part series

It should mean more to get married by a pastor than by a justice of the peace. Sadly, it rarely does. Gallup says four-fifths of couples had no premarital counseling. Those who did were just as likely to divorce as those who got nothing.

Most churches are simply "blessing machines." But some churches are true blessings to those they marry. Alan Sears, once issues director for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, to my surprise, married a Catholic girl, and was so impressed with his Catholic marriage preparation, that he converted and is now a Catholic.

He recalls, "It gave us a feeling that we really understood what we were getting into and that we could make it work. Looking back in retrospect, it did prepare us."

Catholics have a "Common Marriage Policy" in most dioceses that make requirements that are rare in Protestant churches: A minimum preparation period of six months; training couples with solid

marriages to mentor young ones; urging attendance at "Engaged Encounter" to deepen dialogue skills; use of a premarital inventory, workbook, and lectures on tough issues.

For already married couples, Catholic lay leaders have organized "Marriage Encounter" weekends, and for deeply troubled marriages, 70 dioceses now have "Retrouvaille" to save eight of 10 marriages.

The result: the divorce rate of the Baptist Bible Belt in the South is 50% higher than the heavily Catholic New England region.

However, evangelical churches do a far better job in teaching the relevance of Scripture to marriage and are far more likely to take a stand against cohabitation, which boosts the odds of divorce by 50%.

Mainline Protestant clergy, if they use a premarital inventory use the best, PREPARE, that can predict who will divorce with 86% accuracy.

Therefore, when I have been asked to speak to local clergy groups, I have urged pastors of all denominations to consider a

"Community Marriage Policy," that would blend the best of all of these innovations:

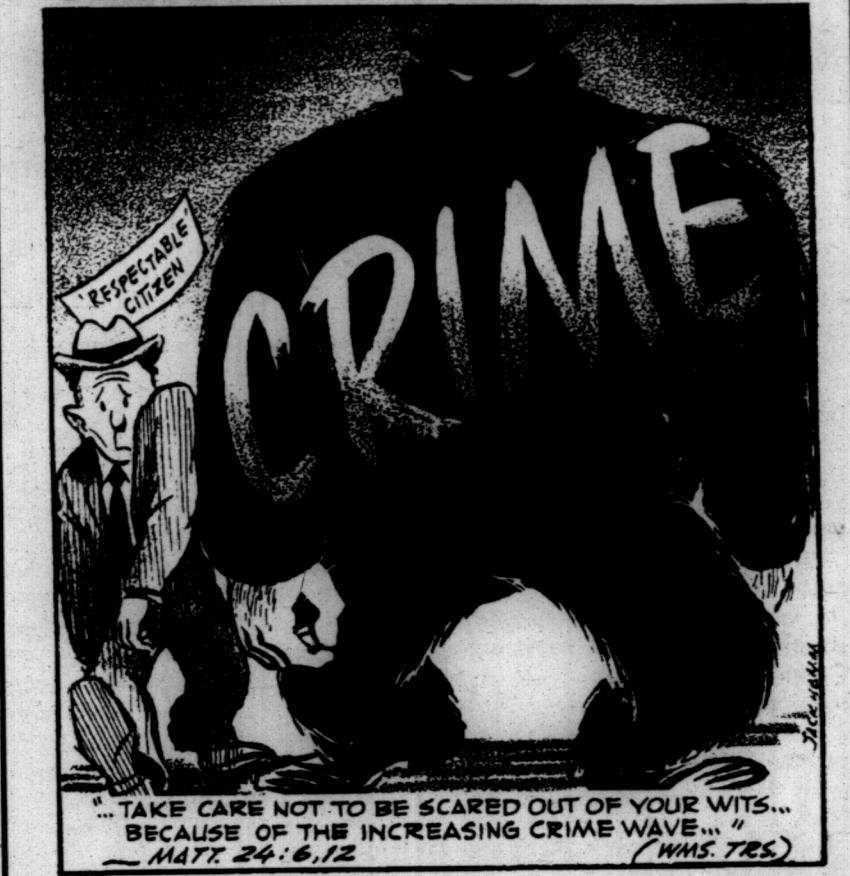
"What I want you to consider is a covenant that stretches across denominational lines, a commitment by every church to demand more of engaged couples: more time, study, and more training in communication. Every church must also offer more practical help to existing marriages."

My speeches fell flat until a Baptist pastor named Jim Talley wrote a one-page summary of my proposals with his own eloquent preamble. And 14 cities such as Modesto, Calif. (where it began); Fairbanks, Alaska; and three Illinois cities have adopted Community Marriage Policies.

"Almost 75% of all marriages are performed by pastors, and we are troubled by the more than 50% divorce rate," confessed Peoria's clergy in 1991. "Our concern is to radically reduce the divorce rate among those married in area churches," they said, using Talley's words.

What a goal! Pastors from 19 denominations accepted a four-

DEMANDING MORE & MORE WALK ROOM



THE FRAGMENTS

The Christians and the lions

In a shopping mall in downtown Nashville there was a gift shop displaying a picture of a Lord's Supper theme. However, instead of Christ in the center there was Marilyn Monroe and hovering around her were 11 male stars of Hollywood fame. I asked the manager if anyone ever complained about it.

"Ah, there are some religious types now and then, but most people like it."

"But surely it is offensive to Christians; do you not mind offending them?" I inquired.

"I'm in the art and gift business; it sells, that's all I know."

I crowded him a bit more. "If it offended Muslims, would you keep it in your window?"

Evangelical Press reports that bus and phone booth ads show pop singer Madonna alongside the Vir-

gin Mary and baby Jesus. The Catholic League on Religion and Civil Rights has asked Mayor David Dinkins to have the ads removed.

William Donohue, League president said, "If we tried to put a picture of our blessed mother and Jesus on the side of the bus, it would be rejected because it would be endorsing religion, but if it is used with Madonna in a form of blasphemy, it is acceptable," he claimed. "Suddenly, it becomes freedom of speech. The double standard is an outrage." He also observed that the city would have never permitted ads which were "anti-Semitic, racist, or anti-gay."

Strange as it seems, we still have people who root for the lions in the arena as the Christians are devoured. — GH

month preparation period, with:

A minimum of four counseling sessions with one devoted to a pre-marital test and another to Scripture.

The use of mentor couples.

Attendance at Engaged Encounter.

Two post-marital counseling sessions.

Encouragement for all married couples to attend a couples retreat such as Marriage Encounter.

A marriage ministry featuring mentoring couples whose marriages once nearly failed working with troubled marriages.

The results were that divorces plunged from 1,210 in 1991 to 947

in 1992! Court clerks attributed the drop to Peoria's new higher cost to file for divorce, prompting some to go to nearby counties. But they had only 77 more divorce filings.

Even if all came from Peoria, the city still cut its divorce rate by 15% in one year! Why? Peoria's churches are learning to become "marriage savers," jump-starting many of the reforms praised here and by the last six segments of this series — and by my new book, **Marriage Savers**.

McManus has written a syndicated column, "Ethics & Religion," since 1981. This series was based on research for his book, **MARRIAGE SAVERS**.

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FMB adopts record-setting \$185 million budget

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board trustees adopted a record \$185 million budget for 1994 at their Oct. 11-13 meeting and agreed to consider digging deeper to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The Lottie Moon offering is the largest offering of its kind in the world. In the early 1970s it started growing by millions nearly every year.

As it has grown, so has the portion of the foreign missions effort it has supported. But receipts two of the past three years fell shy of totals from the year before.

In 1994 the offering is expected to account for almost 45% of the board's income. Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, is expected to supply 37%.

FMB President Jerry Rankin said he believes recent giving patterns show a possible reversal of a

three-year slide in the Cooperative Program.

The Lottie Moon goal for this year is \$85 million, but the board is budgeting only \$83 million of the goal. Still, that's \$2 million, or 2.5%, more than actually received last year, a percentage increase equaled only once during the last four years.

Rankin drew a chorus of "amens" and sustained applause from trustees when he said he was looking forward to coming back to them next spring recommending "what to do with the \$2 million we received in excess of the \$83 million we budgeted for Lottie Moon."

Also, Rankin won unanimous approval Oct. 13 to elect a new senior vice president and change the way the board administers overseas operations. The affirmation by FMB trustees followed Rankin's Oct. 10 installation as the 10th man to serve as president

of the 148-year-old board.

Rankin told trustees the reorganization steps will: 1) streamline decision making for more rapid response to mission needs and opportunities, 2) place primary focus on overseas ministries, 3) consolidate efforts that directly affect missionary work overseas under one administration, 4) inspire vision, and 5) decentralize strategy and planning.

The function of the mission board's top-level Global Strategy Group, which Rankin dissolved,

will be filled by the 10 area directors convening twice yearly, and by other administrative procedures now evolving.

The changes will return most field administration and strategic development responsibilities to the area directors, who will relate to the board through Avery T. Willis Jr., the new senior vice president for overseas.

The policy subcommittee of the trustees' administrative committee is reviewing the manuscript of a new FMB history

being published in connection with the board's 1995 observance of its 150th year.

Final plans for publication of the book by church historian William R. Estep will be discussed at the trustees' Dec. 6-8 meeting. At that time they may also discuss the dedication of the book, which trustees earlier had voted to dedicate to retired FMB President R. Keith Parks and his wife, Helen Jean. Parks is now missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

HMB declines to consider CBF leader as missionary

ATLANTA (BP) — The spouse of a newly-appointed home missionary will not be considered for missionary status because of his leadership involvement with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

That decision came during the Home Mission Board's fall board of directors meeting in Atlanta.

Rebecca Waugh was appointed Oct. 13 as church and community ministries director for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association in New York City.

Bob Curtis, chairman of the board's missionary personnel committee, emphasized Waugh met all qualifications for service with the Home Mission Board. "We did not see any reason either theologically

or ethically for not appointing her."

Under HMB policies, missionary spouses are also appointed as home missionaries. However, Curtis, a pastor from Ballwin, Mo., reported to the board that his committee declined to consider Waugh's husband, David, because he is a member of the CBF's national Coordinating Council.

The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptists dissatisfied with current SBC leadership and trends.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, said he agrees with the board's position that an elected leader with the CBF should not be appointed or approved as a SBC-supported missionary.

Hardy Clemons, CBF moder-

ator and a pastor from Greenville, S.C., said he was shocked and astounded at the action. "That is an awfully inconsistent attitude for a group of Baptists to have. People were not denied involvement (in the SBC) because of their involvement in Mid-America (Baptist) Seminary or Criswell College. This seems decidedly discriminatory to me," Clemons stated.

Asked if the CBF would appoint a missionary whose spouse served on the board of an SBC agency, he said, "I'm sure we would. I don't know any reason we would not."

Also, the Home Mission Board directors approved a record \$91.2 million budget during their fall

meeting, at which Lewis urged directors and staff to lead their churches to boost support of the SBC Cooperative Program.

Next year's budget is 2.2% more than the current year's bud-

get. The Cooperative Program supplies about one-third of the mission agency's income, but "CP receipts have leveled off and even declined for several years," said Lewis.

SBC CP gifts down for third year in a row

NASHVILLE (ABP) — For the third consecutive year, gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program have dropped below the previous year's total.

The SBC Executive Committee closed its books on the 1992-93 fiscal year Sept. 30. Total Cooperative Program gifts for the period were \$136.5 million, a 1.2% decrease from the previous year's receipts of \$138.2 million.

The Cooperative Program apparently grew each year since its beginning in 1925 until 1990, when it began a slide that has continued for three years.

Despite the third straight yearly drop, Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said he sees a "positive trend" because receipts for the past three months have been higher than the same months last year. That portends well for next year, he told Baptist Press.

U.S. House rejects parochial aid plan

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. House of Representatives soundly defeated a measure Oct. 13 that would have allowed public tax dollars to go to private and religious schools.

By a vote of 130-300, the House rejected a school-choice amendment to the Goals 2000 — Educate

America Act (H.R. 1804). The amendment, offered by Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, required 25% of \$400 million in the bill be used for so-called "choice" programs in public or private schools.

The bill, approved 307 to 118, includes the Clinton administration's Goals 2000 proposal that

would establish a national framework for education reform.

The Baptist Joint Committee traditionally has opposed parochial aid. Recently, the BJC reaffirmed its opposition to all such schemes: "In Jefferson's words, it is both 'sinful and tyrannical' to tax people to fund the teaching of religion."

Miss. couple appointed to Zimbabwe will serve in same field as parents



Robert, Margaret Fortenberry

Mississippi Baptist pastor Robert N. Fortenberry and his wife Margaret were among 30 people appointed missionaries Oct. 12 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Fortenberrys have been assigned to Zimbabwe, where her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh McKinley, also serve as FMB missionaries.

Fortenberry, who will start and develop churches in Zimbabwe, has been pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle, since 1987. He holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

His parents are Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fortenberry of Jackson.

Mrs. Fortenberry grew up in Zimbabwe. She is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C., and holds a master of religious education from Southwestern Seminary. While in Mississippi, she was a substitute teacher in the Jones County School District.

The couple, along with their two daughters, will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field. Fairfield Church, Moselle, will host a luncheon in honor of the Fortenberrys on Oct. 31.



Friends for life

Tom Skinner (left) and Pat Morley, have turned their long-time personal friendship into a movement to bridge traditional racial, denominational, and social barriers in an effort to bring Mississippians together under the banner of Jesus Christ. Skinner and Morley bring their message of reconciliation this weekend to Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. See related story on page 5.



WELCOME TO CAMPUS — One of the largest freshman classes in the history of Mississippi College was welcomed by administrative, faculty, and staff members during an informal reception in the recently renovated courtyard of Jennings Hall. Among those attending was Devin Meilstrup from Argentina, where his parents serve as missionaries. He was greeted by Sarah Folkes, hostess at the event and wife of Billy R. Folkes, director of continuing education. (MC photo)

Golden Gate trustees elect v.p., explore centers

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Trustees of Golden Gate Seminary elected a new academic vice president and voted to investigate opening new centers in Arizona and Colorado at their regular meeting Oct. 11-12.

Roderick K. "Rick" Durst was elected unanimously to become vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary effective Aug. 1, 1994. He will succeed Clayton Harrop who will retire next July. A native of California, Durst has been director of the seminary's campus in Brea. He is a graduate of California Baptist College and has earned two degrees from Golden Gate Seminary.

Trustees authorized the seminary administration to "investigate the possibility of establishing new centers" in Phoenix, Ariz., and Denver. However, Crews pointed out such centers "would have to be funded in some way other than (Southern Baptists') Cooperative Program" because of a limit on enrollment that may be counted in the seminary funding formula.

FMB taps Brotherhood's Furgerson to head expanded volunteer effort

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — James L. Furgerson, a leader in the Southern Baptist volunteer movement, will join the Foreign Mission Board staff in December as the sparkplug for broader use of volunteers worldwide.

FMB President Jerry Rankin introduced Furgerson, adult division director of the Brotherhood Commission since 1989, at the FMB trustees' Oct. 11-13 meeting.

Furgerson, 53, will fill a vacancy left when Ron Boswell became

Crews said the seminary must begin placing "greater dependence on support from endowments" and other institutional support.

"My opinion is that the day of significant growth of the Cooperative Program is a thing of the past," Crews said.

Trustees also authorized borrowing \$212,650 from California Baptist Foundation to meet operating expenses through December. A report presented to trustees blamed "a continuing drop in Cooperative Program" funds, lower than expected income from the annual fund drive, and budget over-expenditures for a \$111,000 budget deficit during 1992-93.

The trustees also heard a preliminary enrollment report showing nearly half the students at Golden Gate's three centers are non-Anglo. Mike Thompson, vice president for student affairs, noted Anglo students comprised only 8% of the entering class at the seminary's Southern California campus. That compares to 95% new Anglo enrollment this year at the Northwest campus in Portland, Ore.

pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. Bill Peacock, associate director of the volunteer department, has been interim director since June 25.

A native of St. Louis, Furgerson holds degrees from Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Mississippi College, Clinton; and Indiana University in Bloomington. He held youth ministry posts in Mississippi and Florida, and also was a Baptist Student Union director at Indiana University. He and his wife have two grown sons.

Southwestern trustees discuss relationship with Fellowship

By Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Trustees of Southwestern Seminary inaugurated a new institute for church leadership and elected two new faculty members in their Oct. 11-13 meeting in Fort Worth, but they focused much of their time and energy on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The trustees participated in the inauguration of the Scarborough Institute, proposed by Southwestern President Russell Dilday and approved by the trustees a year ago. Headed by Daniel Sanchez, the institute will focus on research in church-growth issues and provide practical experience for students.

The new faculty members are Steve Lyons, former missionary to Venezuela, elected professor of pastoral ministry, and Marcia McQuitty, elected assistant professor of childhood education.

The trustees approved a recommendation from their academic affairs committee for the study of the seminary's relationship with the Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist moderates.

The trustee executive committee — the three trustee officers, chairmen of the four trustee committees, and another member from each committee named by the chairman — will study the matter and report next spring.

Along with it, they will consider the matter of alumni meetings at Fellowship gatherings.

President Dilday proposed a response that the seminary consid-

ers it "important to relate appropriately to all of our alumni across the world."

However, Don Taylor, trustee from Asheville, N.C., challenged the recommendation by proposing a substitute motion instructing the administration to "discourage the alumni association from exhibiting at CBF gatherings."

Questioned about the seminary's participation in such alumni meetings, Dilday said "shared funds" from both the seminary and the alumni pay for them and that he "felt good about going wherever Southwestern alumni are."

The trustees finally approved with only a few negative votes, a motion by Lee Weaver, trustee from Fort Worth, to table Taylor's motion until the trustee executive committee completes its study.

The trustees approved presentation of the B.H. Carroll Awards to C.J. and Ophelia Humphrey of Amarillo and Lee and Delores McKellar of Mount Pleasant. The award is given annually to recognize "outstanding contributions to the life of the seminary."

The Humphreys have been influential in funding Southwestern's evangelism practicum program. He is a member of the seminary Advisory Council and president of the Panhandle Baptist Foundation, which has given some \$300,000 to the seminary.

The McKellars are members of First Church of Mount Pleasant and have provided an insurance gift of

more than \$100,000 for the seminary.

No opposition was registered to giving the couples the award. But later Lyle Seltmann, a trustee and director of associational missions from Michigan, raised the question if either of the couples was involved in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Miles Seaborn, trustee from Fort Worth, said the Humphreys' church — First Church of Amarillo — is an "open supporter" of the Fellowship. Wayne Allen, trustee from Carrollton, Texas, said he understood Ophelia Humphrey had spoken on behalf of Texas Baptists Committed. Seltmann then moved that the approval of the award for the Humphreys be rescinded.

Questioned if they knew of any such relationships with the CBF, Dilday and Jay Chance, vice president for institutional advancement, said the denominational political affiliation of persons receiving the awards is not considered.

Action on Seltmann's motion was postponed until the following day, to give time to determine if the Humphreys were supporters of the Fellowship. However, trustee chairman Damon Shook told *The Baptist Standard* the next morning that Seltmann had withdrawn his motion to rescind the action.

Druin is associate editor, *Texas BAPTIST STANDARD*. Scott Collins, PR director, Southwestern Seminary, also contributed to this report.

Retiring Mississippi missionaries feted at Foreign Mission Board

Recently retired Southern Baptist missionaries were honored Oct. 11 by the Foreign Mission



Wilsons

Board for their years of service on the mission field. Among the honorees with Mississippi connections were:



McDaniels

Gene and Angelle Kenny Wilson, who served 30 years in Brazil. Gene graduated from Ole Miss and Angelle attended Itawamba Junior College. Gene also served as a minister in Tupelo prior to his missionary work.

Sam, Jr., and Virginia Currey Cannata, who served in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Virginia is from Hollandale and graduated from Blue Mountain College.

Dorothy Emmons, who was appointed to Tanzania in 1959 and served 34 years. She was born in Lake, attended Clarke College, and graduated from Mississippi College.

James, Jr., and Peggy Place Bartley, who served 41 years in Uruguay. James was president of the seminary in Montevideo for 20 years and taught at Mississippi College for one year while on furlough.

Major, Jr., and June Vineyard McDaniel, who served in Korea for 20 years. Major was a music promoter in Taejon. June is from

Skene, and graduated from Delta State University and Ole Miss. Major is from Clinton and gradu-



Cannatas

ated from Mississippi College. They also served churches in Greenwood, Prentiss, and Natchez prior to missionary work.



Bartleys



Fresh encounter

Participants from 20 Jones Association churches recently attended the national launch of Fresh Encounter at Ridgecrest Assembly. Fresh Encounter, a joint project of the Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School, is designed to guide churches through the process of understanding and responding to God's pattern for revival and spiritual awakening.

HMB begins enlistment for Cross Over Orlando

ATLANTA (BP) — As a result of Cross Over Orlando enlistment banquets, 58 churches have committed to participate in evangelistic events preceding the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention.

Jerry Pipes, national missionary for the Home Mission Board's evangelism division, estimated 65% of the churches in the six central Florida associations were represented.

Like preceding events, the

event in Florida will include block parties, rallies, and door-to-door witnessing. Pipes hopes to have 150 central Florida churches solidly committed to participate.

Out-of-state volunteers will be needed to help conduct the various events hosted by Florida churches. Individuals and churches interested in participating in Cross Over Orlando can register by contacting Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, (404) 898-7688.

A Testimony —

Academic freedom: prerequisite to truth and virtue

By Chuck D. Barlow

It is perhaps predictable that a part of Mississippi College dedicated to teaching such a mundane profession as the law would become the brunt of "I told you so" criticism during a time when unfortunate events have placed the entire college under scrutiny. The recent problems on campus will push Mississippi College in one of two directions: the college and its supporters can learn from the experience and become stronger through realized weaknesses, as Paul teaches Christians to do; or the college can shrink from its responsibilities in the world by becoming narrow-minded and isolationist, proclaiming that only those who bear an illusory stamp of Baptist perfection are worthy to attend or teach within the institution.

As a graduate student at the University of Virginia, I decided to attend law school. I narrowed my choice of schools to Virginia and MC, and ultimately chose MC. I have never regretted the choice, although I spend considerable time explaining to lawyers outside Mississippi where and why MC exists.

I tell people that MC is a Baptist school that does not force its students to be Baptist; that the school teaches by example and by mission rather than by indoctrination; that the faculty is diverse; that the institution is self-critical rather than doctrinaire. Most importantly, I tell people that Mississippi College is driven and strengthened by the tension and balance between its two primary philosophies; its pride in existing as a thoroughly Baptist institution and its courage to allow academic freedom.

The purpose of a law school is to teach students how to compare, criticize, express, innovate, and advocate. Its foremost academic mission is to teach

students how to aid a diverse society in living under a democratic Constitution.

But how can a law school teach the importance of the First Amendment when its own doors are closed, or only grudgingly opened, to professors and students of other religions? How could I have learned the revolutionary constitutional lesson that each man is worthy and important as an individual, even in the face of government opposition and regardless of religious preference, while sitting in a school that refused to acknowledge the importance, necessity, and desirability of non-Baptist Americans? How much would I have learned by listening to professors and other students who look, act, and think just like me?

I chose MC School of Law because I believed MC would build and run a first-class institution. It has done this, but only because its deans and the college administration have recognized the ultimate importance of academic freedom and diversity in its classrooms. In short, the quality of the faculty at the law school would be seriously undercut if the school had to rely on Baptists to fill its faculty positions. There are relatively few Baptist law professors, and even fewer who have attained the level of scholarship necessary to teach at a first-class law school.

If we as a denomination lack the intelligence to learn from the strengths and weaknesses of the diverse culture around us, taking out of its treasure godly things both old and new, then we don't have any business running a law school. We should instead retreat inside our high temple walls and secure the gates against the unclean.

Barlow is a practicing attorney and deacon at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Halloween: Is it harmless tradition or pagan ritual?

By Jim Goodroe

in ancient Gaul and Britain. The Catholic church adopted the eve and the day following and renamed them, as they did with many other established observances, in an attempt to "Christianize" them.

The Druids taught religion, philosophy, and the power of the gods, and they performed sacrifices, which included human victims. They were also adept as astrologers, magicians, and sorcerers. They believed in the mysterious powers of certain animals and plants, and used the entrails of sacrificed animals and the flight of birds to ascertain the unknown, especially the future.

Not only do Druidic practices parallel those of modern and historical witchcraft, but anthropology also pronounces the connection. Halloween is the most important festival of witchcraft cults. The Druid witches started it, and witches down through the centuries have celebrated it as their grand witch Sabbath. When we take part in Halloween customs, we are actually participating in a witchcraft cele-

bration. In fact, many of our Halloween traditions find their origin and meaning within the witchcraft cult begun by the Druids or in superstitious reaction to it. For example, bobbing for apples originated as a means of divination, especially for girls in predicting their future husbands.

Why should Christians not participate (albeit naively) in the celebration of Halloween? Consider these references:

Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16,20). The main fruits of Halloween are gluttony and greed for children and vandalism for teenagers.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Is it God who is glorified on Halloween, or is it the devil?

1 Thessalonians 5:21,22 says, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearances of evil." When Halloween is weighed in the balances, it is found wanting.

Goodroe is pastor of First Church, Sumter, S.C.

Halloween alternatives

1. Now that you know the real meaning of Halloween, share it with others. Speak the truth in love, to educate rather than condemn, because their participation in Halloween is probably as naive as your was.

2. Do not avoid or squelch the subject in conversations with your children. When the subject comes up, use the opportunity to teach them what Halloween is all about. "Halloween is really the devil's holiday, and we don't want to celebrate with the devil, do we?"

3. Refrain from supporting Halloween commercially through the purchase of Halloween paraphernalia.

4. Work to reduce the Halloween emphasis in the school. Especially make your child's teacher and principal aware of your convictions and request that they honor them as much as possible.

5. Christians (and church groups) can use the Halloween season to hold Bible studies about the supernatural and prayer meetings against the forces of evil.

6. Provide substitute activities for your children. Having an alternative activity helps a child save face with his peers, and sharing a more constructive experience shows them there are better things in life. As parents share themselves with their children, worldly substitutes will have less and less appeal.

7. What about "trick-or-treaters" who come to your door? If you are out on a family activity, this solves the problem. If you are home, do not be a bad witness, such as sending the children away with condemnation instead of candy. You may wish to give them a tract explaining the meaning of Halloween and the message of Jesus (available at Christian book stores) in addition to the candy, not instead of it. As you give the candy, you may wish to say, "I don't believe in Halloween, but I want to give you this because Jesus loves you."

Montana welcomes 5 new churches

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — Montana Baptists welcomed five newly constituted churches into their fellowship during their annual meeting. Members of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship, gathering at Trinity Church in Billings Oct. 6-7, also elected new officers and heard progress reports on its goal to double the fellowship's size by the turn of the century. Messengers voted to approve

a budget of \$930,370. Of this total, 21%, the same as last year, will be forwarded to national Cooperative Program causes. James Nelson, executive secretary-treasurer, said the fellowship's portion of the overall budget will increase by 9%, or \$17,360, to a record \$255,538. Montana Southern Baptists now number 9,800 members in 121 congregational units among the state's 800,000 population.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 21, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Zimbabwe Testimony

The letter below depicts the typical response of those who join mission efforts in Zimbabwe.

Dear Bill:

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed the Mission trip to Zimbabwe. The hospitality at the Mississippi House and the cooking was marvelous. The Merritts were great hosts. As Dewey and I were talking he mentioned Bluff Springs Baptist Church out from Magnolia. That was my son's first church to pastor. After talking to Missy Moses I found out she is from Macon and we have a mutual friend there. The Selmans and Julia were a delight and I think J.V. witnessed from the beginning to the end of our trip. They, the Selmans, also had started a church at Split Hand, Minn., and the Brookhaven and Summit group have also helped with that project.

You and the Lord did a great job in determining where each team would serve. David Carlton did an outstanding job preaching the word and he did not make salvation an easy thing. He told it like it was and that there was a price to becoming a Christian. He had classes with the leaders morning and afternoon and taught them about discipleship and church leadership. Lisia shared with the school age children. One of the boys in a class became a Christian because of her sharing and testimony. She also had a meeting with the Youth of the Bietbridge Church and we gave them some suggestions on how to get a youth group started.

Dot and I also went to the schools and shared our testimonies and taught the book of John. We had sessions with the leaders' wives and they had questions like, how to deal with non-Christian husbands. Our advice was to just keep on loving them and they might begin to see the Jesus in them and want to know more about being a Christian. They also wanted to know how to teach their children to pray and how to start a Bible study. I hope we helped in some small way.

The Langstons' hospitality and cooking was also marvelous. We seemed to just fit in and they really took us in and treated us royally. Ron has such rapport with his church leaders. They are doing a great work and I know if the Lord wants them to stay where they are He will work it out, otherwise, I know they will seek His leadership and go where He wants them to serve next.

The Loftices were also a delight and Susan has found her way around, even to South Africa, and gotten acquainted with surroundings and some of the people. They seem to be adjusting. They are a precious family and I know Mike will make the Sorghum project work.

We are praying for seed, because without it there will be no project.

Of our four trips overseas on mission trips this was by far the most rewarding and enjoyable. I think the key was being out with the people and getting to know them and being right there with them. I knew I was just where God wanted me to be. I am looking forward to other trips and just want to go where God leads me.

Thanks again for all your help and encouragement. Looking forward to what the future holds.

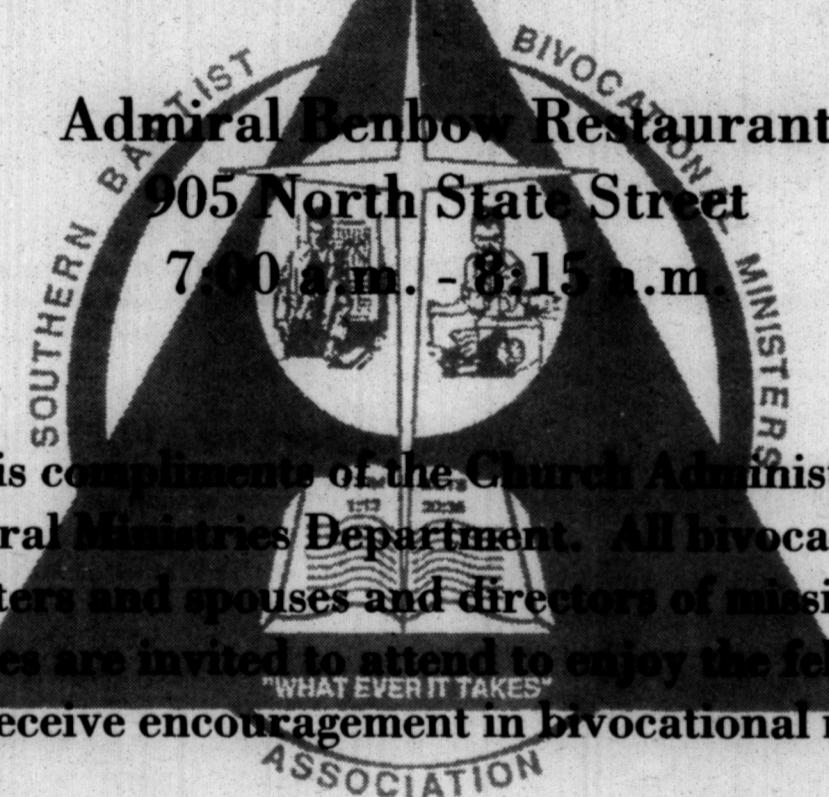
Your Sister in Christ,
Hudora □

"I thought HOUSETOPS was
just for the church staff...
"Til I read where
I'm needed in
Alaska."

(see ALASKA inside page,
HouseTops)

State Convention Bivocational Ministers Breakfast Fellowship

November 17, 1993



Meal is compliments of the Church Administration/
Pastoral Ministries Department. All bivocational
ministers and spouses and directors of missions and
spouses are invited to attend to enjoy the fellowship
and receive encouragement in bivocational ministry.
"WHAT EVER IT TAKES"
ASSOCIATION

pray this day

a new feature to add to your joy in praying for special things in Mississippi Baptist life will appear twice monthly, in calendar form. These first two weeks direct us to pray each day for our Mississippi Baptist Convention which will meet November 16 and 17 at First Baptist Church in Jackson. . . we hope you will use this in several ways: clip it and keep it with your other prayer lists, in your church place it on bulletin boards, use it in services, copy and distribute it to the church family, and in other innovative ways that will come to your mind. . . just be sure to pray. . .

**November
1-17, 1993**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	for a sweet spirit in the heart of everyone from your church who will attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention at FBC, Jackson, November 16-17. 1	for the ability of the Order of Business Committee of the Convention to implement the program which they have planned, asking God's guidance all along the way. 2	for Dr. Bill Causey and the Baptist Building staff in their work with and for Mississippi Baptists. 3	for the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in their leadership capacity throughout the year, especially during business sessions of the Convention. 4	for each member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, especially those from your area, as they meet prior to the Convention. 5	for your director of missions as he helps to lead in our Mississippi Baptist work. 6
for each pastor in our state, especially our own pastor, as he helps to lead his church in Mississippi Baptist work. 7	for each church member, especially ourselves, as we help to do the plan of work in our church, looking at our responsibilities to the ends of the earth and all the way between. 8	for everyone involved in any way in Mississippi Baptist life to remember that God is our Father, Christ is our Redeemer and our Role Model, that the Holy Spirit is our Power Source; and that the Trinity never changes. 9	for each person who will serve on a state Baptist committee or board - that their work will be a joy to them as more people learn about Jesus as a result of their work. 10	for every person involved in preparing special music for the Convention, especially Eva Hart, pianist, and Glenn Crosthwait, organist. 11	for all who are working on reports to be given to the convention and for those who'll present the reports. 12	for all the staff at First Baptist Church in Jackson in their added responsibilities as staffers of the host church as many groups meet prior to the convention - Lay Missions, Ministers Wives, Pastors Conference, and others. 13
for all those who will direct the congregation in singing, who will read the Bible passages, who will lead in prayer, and who will give testimonies. 14	for speakers W.W. Walley, T.W. Hunt, Ken Hemphill, Bill Causey, Frank Pollard, Don Wilton, and W. Truett Cathy. 15	for business sessions - those who preside, those who participate, and those whose lives are touched by decisions made in the sessions. 16	for the new officers of the convention and for new members of the convention board, that their leadership and our fellowship will make people look up to Christ and Christianity. 17	<p><i>from the Prayer Ministry office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205 Phone 968-3800 Ext. 3904 MS Prayerline 969-PRAY</i></p>		

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Reaching out motivates people to get involved in Sunday School. Griffith Memorial Baptist Church in Jackson classes sent post cards out to absentees and prospects as part of their participation in "Getting To Know You". "Getting To Know You" is an emphasis on building personal relationships with prospects and members.

Anthony Turner, Minister of Education/Music, reports that a Saturday "Blitz" for distributing literature to absentees and prospects went well. "Over 80% of the material was delivered on that Saturday or during the week." The Blitz was an effort to personally contact every member and prospect.

"Each class will set a High Attendance Goal for the last Sunday in October," Turner reports. "I estimate that will be above 340, higher than our previous high attendance of 32G." Bruce Cappleman is pastor of Griffith Memorial.

Making personal contacts makes the difference in reaching out. Every Sunday School member becomes a part of the church's outreach effort.

I'm praying for a strong emphasis on the part of Sunday School classes to say to people in the community "We want you to be a part of Bible study; we want to help you; we want to show God's love for you."

Keith Wilkinson, Director
Sunday School Department □



Alaska Partnership Project Needs Help

During July 25-August 5, 1994, Olyn Roberts will be leading his 11th group to Alaska to assist four churches in the general area around Anchorage.

He needs men and women who can do carpentry, paint, put on roofing, do renovation and possibly electrical work. In addition, he has need of a couple of men who can serve as foremen for a project.

Total cost of the trip will be \$835 from Jackson. The cost includes food, airfare, insurance, and travel in Alaska. Interested persons should contact Roberts at Route 2, Box 378, Louisville, MS 39339 or telephone 601/773-5670. □

MasterLife Workshop

A MasterLife Workshop takes place at the Parchman Prison Ministry Center in split sessions: Nov. 11-13, and Nov. 18-20. Thursdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Leaders will be Rev. and Mrs. Larry Goff. A \$50 scholarship is available for those willing to teach MasterLife in the Parchman Prison Ministry. Contact Neron Smith of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. □

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 12-13 FIRST BAPTIST, MADISON

The annual Church Media Library conference takes place Nov. 12-13 at First Church, Madison. Leaders include Danny Ayala, Stephen Gately, and Pat Brown, all of the Church Media Library Program of the Baptist Sunday School board; plus Elizabeth Horton CML director of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville; Bo Prosser, associate minister at Forest Hills Church, Raleigh; and Peggy Tacon, CML director of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile.

Courses offered include such topics as basic and advanced classification and cataloging, book repair, how to process media, making and maintaining audiovisuals, and operating a tape ministry.

Participants need to make their reservations with the Broadcast Services Department by Nov. 2. Cost is \$10 per person.



Lay Missions Conference

"Going Into Your Marketplace" is the theme of this year's Lay Missions Conference which precedes the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The conference will feature Mississippian Jerry Rankin, elected this year as president of the Foreign Mission Board. He is a former missionary to the Philippines, Indonesia, and India.

The meeting takes place Monday, Nov. 15, at First Church, Jackson, the day before the convention begins.

Joining Rankin on the program will be Nathan Porter, assistant director of the Home Mission Board's Church/Community Ministries Department. His specialty is domestic hunger.

Rankin and Porter will speak during a banquet which begins at 5 p.m. and costs \$7.50 per person. Reservations may be obtained from the Brotherhood Department, 968-3800. A reservation form is on the back page of HOSETOPS. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 10.

Earlier in the day, at 3 p.m., a series of meetings for the mission fellowships and for special interest groups will take place. The missions fellowship groups include Agri-Missions, Campers on Mission, Educational Missions, Construction Missions, and Church Renewal.

The special interest sessions will relate to Partnership Missions, Beginning Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Beginning Jail Ministry, and CART, which stands for Crisis Alert Response Training. CART is for anyone interested in knowing more about how to respond to and support disaster relief work.

There will be preschool care from 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. for those who notify the Brotherhood Department. No meal service will be provided in the preschool center. □

Win School Materials Overview

These are the last two opportunities for directors of missions and directors of evangelism to get an overview of the WIN School materials here at the Baptist Building. Already 78 have been trained. The plan is for an overview to be offered in every association very soon led by these leaders and that in 1994 there will be a WIN School in every church in Mississippi. This will prepare the people for the 60 days of witnessing called "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" which is scheduled January 9 through March 9, 1995. These precede the simultaneous Harvest Revivals.

If there are new directors of missions or directors of evangelism who have not had this one-day overview please call for reservations for one of these remaining conferences: October 28 or November 11, 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. □



WHAT CAN MY CHURCH DO
TO KEEP UP WITH SUCH A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD?

JUST WHEN WE SEEM TO GET THE ANSWERS, THEY CHANGE THE QUESTIONS!

MY CHURCH MEMBERS AND I ARE TIRED OF SEEING JUST THE SAME OLD THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR CHURCH. IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO CREATE SOME EXCITEMENT?

The answers to these and other questions can be discovered by participating in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department's "GREAT COMMISSION BREAK-THROUGH PROJECT."

A participating church will be provided a trained consultant for up to one year. The consultant will not dispense information, but will guide the church to answer at least three questions:

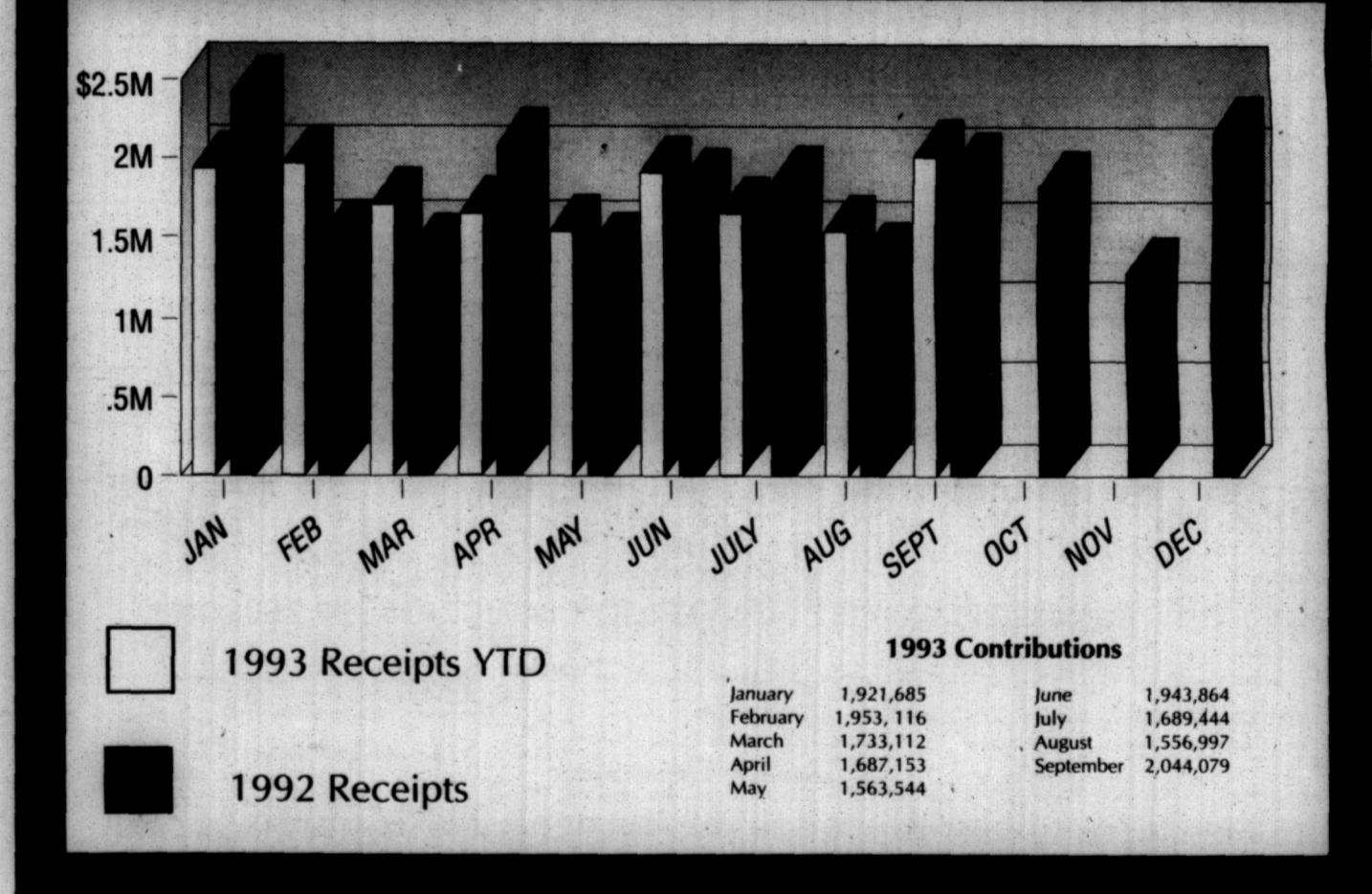
WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO BECOME? WHAT WILL WE NEED TO OVERCOME TO BE THAT CHURCH? WHAT ACTIONS WILL WE NEED TO PLAN IN ORDER TO BE THAT CHURCH?

The financial commitment of each participating church will be to care for and feed the consultant while the consultant is on the church field. All other related expenses are covered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

For more information contact the Sunday School Department - 968-3800 - or write Randy Tompkins, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. □



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS: 1993



God is not
SILENT
... are you listening?

Youth Evangelism Conference

Mississippi College
Clinton, Miss.

December 27-28, 1993

Registration Begins at 12:30
(2:00 p.m. Monday -- 3:40 p.m. Tuesday)

Pre-registration Deadline is
DECEMBER 15 for a free breakfast at MC

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Association _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____

Address During Conference _____

1 _____

17 _____

2 _____

18 _____

3 _____

19 _____

4 _____

20 _____

5 _____

21 _____

6 _____

22 _____

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25 _____

10 _____

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27 _____

12 _____

28 _____

13 _____

29 _____

14 _____

30 _____

15 _____

31 _____

16 _____

32 _____

Make check payable to: MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD • \$5 PER PERSON

Signed _____ Position _____

Evangelism Department

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601)968-3800

1994 Bible Drill

This year 3,000 children and youth participated in Bible Drills. Every indication from early interest and inquiries is an even larger participation in 1994 Bible Drills. Now is the time many churches have begun working toward the Children and Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers Tournament. It would be an excellent time for other churches to add these programs for their youth and older children.

Bible Drill pamphlets are available now from the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at the Baptist Building. This year's Children's Bible Drill pamphlet includes the Bible verses to be memorized in both King James Version and the New International Version. A church may choose either version for the children in their group to learn. At the State Drills for Children we plan, in so far as possible, to have separate Drills for children who have learned the New International Version. You need to know that the New International Version Drill Bibles will not be available for the 1994 Drills.

Churches choosing to have their fourth, fifth, and sixth grade boys and girls learn the verses in the NIV should have the children learn the verses from the pamphlet to use in the quotation and Completion Drills. When the Bible is used during the Book Drill and the Key Passage Drill children should continue to use the King James Bibles.

Lay Missions Conference

November 15, 1993, FBC Jackson

Preschool provision will be provided 1:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
upon prior notification to the Brotherhood Department.
(No meal service will be provided in the preschool center.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ dinner
reservations at \$7.50 each
(Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

I will need preschool care (ages birth to 5 years)

Ages of children _____

Names and birthdays of children: _____

Mail to: Brotherhood Department Missions Banquet
P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: NOV. 10, 1993





Letters to the editor



Backs leadership

Editor:

I wish to respectfully respond to your editorial of Thursday, Oct. 7.

It is my personal conviction that the Executive Committee has every right to raise a red flag when the Historical [Commission] prints a report including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship group as a realistic part of Southern Baptist history. The Fellowship group is a dissenter group and from all I can find out, their doctrines differ from solid Southern Baptists. They are also draining off Cooperative Program money which should be designated for missions.

The Executive Committee is composed of representatives from each of the states of Baptists. I would believe that a vote from the members of the Executive Committee on the Historical Commission report would have been taken to determine the decision. So, I believe your editorial left out some of the facts.

Arlis Grice, pastor
Goodyear Church
Picayune

Leaders vs. CP gifts

Editor:

I have read with interest recent articles regarding the concern of SBC executives and the Executive

Committee, in particular concerning the drop in Cooperative Program (CP) giving. In one news account, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman is quoted as saying that "somebody must give the leadership" regarding higher giving to the CP.

A study of the record would suggest that it is, in fact, the current and past leadership which is setting the standard of low CP gifts since 1980. Chapman himself indicated that Executive Committee members' churches channel only 7.23% of undesignated gifts through the CP, which is 2.67% below the goal Chapman would like to see set for each SBC church. (It would be interesting to see similar figures for the trustee member churches of all SBC boards and agencies.)

Looking at the 1992 CP receipts of the seven SBC churches which have provided SBC presidents since 1980, we discover an even more alarming leadership trend! These seven churches had a total of \$47.6 million of undesignated gifts given and a total of almost \$2.4 million in CP gifts. This represents a total average of 5%! (The current SBC president's church gave 2.5% in 1992 CP gifts.)

Compare this to a 1992 report listing the top 100 churches in CP receipts. Found in this listing were six Mississippi churches which reported total undesignated gifts of

\$12 million and CP gifts of \$1.8 million, or 15.15%.

Could it be that we are looking in the wrong places for SBC leadership?

Name withheld by request

Praise for Trinity

Editor:

No doubt there are many Trinity Baptist churches in Mississippi, but there is one which has been very dear to me. Each year since 1987, this church has been my Alaska volunteer construction team's vehicle parking area, which has saved hundreds of dollars in parking fees. In July, they provided transportation to the airport, and also met us when we returned. Words are so inadequate in describing my heartfelt gratitude for their gracious missionary spirit. Their pastor, Kenny Goff, is to be commended in leading them to have such a sweet spirit. They truly are in partnership with Alaska and the world. Our next Alaska mission trip is July 25-Aug. 5, 1994, at a total cost of \$850. For more information, call 773-5670.

Olyn Roberts
Louisville

fully and tastefully report state news as it pertains to Mississippi Baptists. However, I am not pleased with your editorial in the [Oct. 14] *Baptist Record*. In your editorial, you referred to three types of churches in Mississippi; "CBF-supporting churches, just plain conservative churches, and ultra-fundamentalist/conservative churches." Was it just me, or did it sound like you were trying to make a political statement yourself? For the past few months, I have read articles that seemingly praise the work of the CBF, while at the same time, blasting "ultra-fundamental/conservative" pastors, like Fred Wolfe, for doing what I myself have done in the past. Was it wrong for Wolfe to recommend a person to a church or even a convention that shares his same convictions? Who decided that it was wrong for someone outside of our state to recommend inside our state for nomination to any position?

As respected as you are, you don't have the right to call into question the integrity of another person just because they may not share your political views. I would ask you on a personal note, please

refrain from attacking the character of people by smearing their names on the editorial page like some kind of tabloid.

Jimmy Collins, pastor
Antioch Church
Sturgis

Thanks for thought

Editor:

Thank you for your article, "I'll continue to trust him," in the "Fragments" section of *The Baptist Record*, Oct. 14.

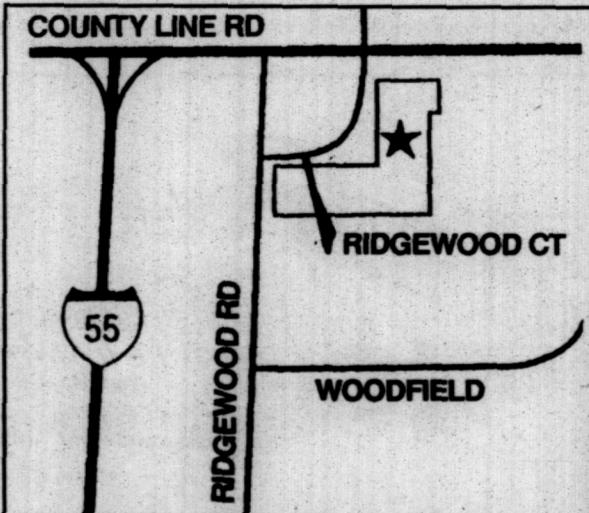
Having personally experienced the pain of forced termination, I was happy to see someone bring this sensitive topic to light again. Churches are crucifying "God-called leaders" and no one seems to want to hold them accountable. I praise God that he is ultimately in control, and it is true, you reap what you sow, even the church. I feel as you, that a pastor and family who lose it all materially and physically and yet can still say, "I'll continue to trust him," stands very tall in my eyes. Thanks again. I also enjoyed Joe McKeever's [cartoon]. So very true!

Theresa DeBold
Pinola

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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson



I am a 68-year old widow who is afraid to go outside. With so many drive-by shootings, rapes, and attacks, I literally do not get out of my house. My children buy my food and take care of my yard. I am so tired of being fearful. What can I do?

Fear is an immobilizing experience. The word fear means "sudden calamity or danger." Other words are dread, anxiety, or panic. Your fear is not irrational; terrible things happen where innocent people get hurt. Whenever we look at fear, we must look at our options. Have you checked into other places to live, roommates, new neighborhoods, or retirement homes? Look at the source of your fear, and you can begin to realize what troubles you. When we realize the source, we can move to the cure. Where is your source of strength? It is in the Word of God, prayer, church participation, books (Norman Wright's *Uncovering Your Hidden Fears* is excellent), and fellowship with family and friends. When we look to our sources of strength, they can overshadow our sources of fear.

My husband seems to have a

problem with a woman in our church. Each Sunday after the sermon, they have a conversation at the front of the church. This has become very obvious to me. Should I approach my husband or close my eyes to it?

Approach your husband, because understanding always comes with communication. In order to deal with the situation, use "I" statements. Rather than attacking your husband with "his problem," let him know what you are seeing and feeling. Use statements such as "When I see you talking to ___ on what seems to be every Sunday, I feel (use words like uncomfortable, angry, mad, upset, rejected, jealous). Can you help me understand what is happening?" When we attack, we can cause the other person to become defensive. When we close our eyes to it, we begin internal corrosion that eats away at us and can destroy us emotionally, spiritually, sexually, and even physically. Before talking to anyone else about this, confront your husband. If that doesn't work, talk to a counselor, pastor, or trusted friend, and get their input. A good reading source is Gary Smalley's book, *The Language of Love*.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 550, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Just for the Record



Oakland Church, Walnut, recently held a workers appreciation banquet for its Sunday School teachers, Discipleship Training teachers, mission teachers, and their assistants. A program was presented under the theme, "Feed My Sheep."



First, Magnolia, recently honored its mission study groups with a recognition service. Mission Friends who were recognized (above, left to right) are: Robin Adams, Molly Whittington, Stephanie McEwen, Seth Prescott, Brittani Clark, Jessica Lambert, and Zack Hutson. Teachers are Paulette Prescott and Patricia Clark. Steve Clark is minister of education and youth.



New Life Church, Greene Association, recently held a note burning ceremony to celebrate the retirement of its debt. Jerry Rawls is pastor.



Craig Chambers, right, pastor of Pine Grove Church, Benton County, presented a check to Arthur Ben, director of missions for the New Choctaw Association. The check was a love offering from the children of Pine Grove.

Revival Results

New Palestine, Picayune: Sept. 19-22; David Sellers, Collinsville, evangelist; Tom Streck, Poplarville, music; one profession of faith, 4 by letter; Grover Glenn, pastor.

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Missionary News

Robert and Marsha Ford, missionaries to Eastern Europe, are on the field (address: Krohova 2245, Prague 6, The Czech Republic). He is a native of Florida. She considers Holly Springs her hometown. They were appointed in 1973.

El Paso, TX 79914). He is a native of Goodman. She is from Georgia. They were appointed in 1973.

Vic and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 439 E. First St., Forest, MS 39074). He is a native of McComb. Born in Tylertown, she considers Kosciusko her hometown. They were appointed in 1983.

Tom and Cynthia Martin, missionaries to Bolivia, are in the States (address: 105 Billy Byrd Dr., Clinton, MS 39056). He is a native of Yazoo City; she is from Natchez. They were appointed in 1989.

Staff Changes

Lew T. King recently joined the staff of **Broadmoor Church, Jackson**, as music assistant. He

has served as minister of music for Parkway Church, Jackson, and churches in Texas and Arkansas. King is a composer, and member and former president of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. He is a graduate of Houston (Texas) Baptist College and Southwestern Seminary.

Tillatoba Church, Yalobusha Association, has called **James H. Garner** as pastor, effective Aug. 1. The Magee native previously served Melrose Church, Bentonia (Yazoo Association). He currently attends New Orleans Seminary.

Orleans Seminary. **Cathy Williams** also joined New Palestine's staff Sept. 15 as minister of youth.

Rowland C. Hall is the new minister to students at **Raymond Church** (Hinds-Madison). He previously served Liberty Church (Rankin) and Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, in similar positions. He is a graduate of Mississippi College.

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'93 Mississippi Baptist Convention's theme set

By Roy T. Myers

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The weather is cooler, and the holiday season will soon be here. God is at work painting such a beautiful picture in fall foliage.

It is also the time of the year for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I have been attending these conventions since 1954, and I always come away blessed by the messages, fellowship, and business concerning our large Baptist family. I may not always agree with all of the business, but the convention gives me an opportunity to express my feelings and convictions.

Our committee has selected "Pray Ye Therefore..." as the theme of this year's convention. Each session will help to develop this theme. T.W. Hunt will bring the Bible Treasures, centered around the theme for each session. There is a great need for all of us to spend more time in prayer. Each session will have a prayer testimony given by a lay person.

We will have speakers to challenge us. W.W. Walley will bring the president's address Tuesday morning. That morning, a new president will be elected to lead us in the coming year. Bill Causey

will lead in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Emphasis, and bring the closing message Tuesday evening. Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson, will bring the convention sermon on Wednesday morning.

The out-of-state speakers are: Ken Hemphill, church growth specialist; Don Wilton, pastor of First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.; and S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-Fil-A, Inc.

Outstanding choirs and groups will lead us in our music worship. They will be a blessing to all, and God will speak to us through them if we will let him.

The Order of Business committee has spent much time in prayer and planning for this convention. We feel God has led us to a program that will also be a blessing. We want to encourage each church to be represented.

Our committee is composed of Mickey Dalrymple, Columbus, vice chairman; Fred Womack, Bay St. Louis, secretary; Ann Colbert, Forest; Jimmy Porter, McComb; and Chuck Hampton, Florence.

Myers, of Meadville, is chairman, Order of Business committee.

Thursday, October 21, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

Names in the News

Mississippi College will recognize prominent alumni at its Alumni Awards Luncheon, Oct. 30, as part of Homecoming activities. Brothers James P. Wood of Waynesboro, and Arthur E. Wood Jr. of Inverness, will share the "alumnus of the year" award. Both are medical doctors,


James P. Wood

and will be honored with a presentation in the A.E. Wood Coliseum, named for their father. Also honored with the Golden Arrow award will be:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitten, Clinton; Nan L. Grantham, Bossier City, La.; and Martin H. McMullan, Brandon. Special distinguished service awards will be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Pete Frierson and Mr. and Mrs. James Hurt, all of Clinton. Van D. Quick will receive the ideal faculty/staff award. Receiving departmental distinguished alumni awards will be:

Gary Walters, John Weisz, Rolland Shaw, Richard Hurt, Mary Jean Padgett, Fred Slabach, Robert Canzoneri, and George Butler. Scheduled for induction into the Choctaw Sports Hall of Fame are: Hazel Langston Hemphill, Charles M. Garrett, Richard Allen, and Jerry Lyons.

Garvice Morse was recently honored by Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, for his 50 years of service as a deacon, 39 at Eastlawn. Morse was presented a plaque and



Rory Lee, right, acting president of Mississippi College, presents a plaque to Sarah Nell Spencer of Bogue Chitto, formerly of Clinton, upon her retirement as comptroller of the college after 30 years. Her husband Calvin, left, was also present. She was honored at a reception at Latimer House, a Victorian home on campus she helped to restore.

given the office of deacon emeritus.

June Meyer will be presented in a faculty piano recital Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. in Garrett Hall on the Blue Mountain College campus. Meyer will perform works of Beethoven, Debussy, and Ginastera.



David Bailey, right, was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by Oakvale Church, Oakvale. He is available for supply and may be reached at (601) 736-8069. William Wright, pastor, presented the license certificate.

Homecomings

Springdale (Tippah): Oct. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Clarence Mayo, Cedar Bluff, guest speaker; covered dish lunch; afternoon singing, 1:15; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

Highland, Jackson: Oct. 24; worship, 11 a.m.; Danny Rutland, Jackson, speaker; noon luncheon; Cliff Shipp, pastor.

Glendale, Greenville: Oct. 24; worship, 11 a.m.; Jack Demoney, Greenville, speaker; lunch, fol-

lowed by 1 p.m. singing with Edwards Family, Grace; Keith Dendy, pastor.

Maybank, Hattiesburg: Oct. 24; regular services; Charles Holifield, Liberty, speaker, and Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music; George G. Aultman, pastor.

Oak Grove (Neshoba): Oct. 24; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wayne Burkes, speaker; Paul H. Leber, pastor.

Branch (Scott): Oct. 24; services, 10 a.m.; J.B. "Cotton" Miller, speaker; lunch, 12 p.m.; James Watts, pastor.

Sandersville (Jones): Oct. 24; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; W.E. Greene, DOM for Jasper Association, Louin, speaker; 1:15 p.m. building dedication service, Bob Perry, Gulfport, speaker; Donnie V. Parker, pastor.

First of Runnelstown, Petal: Oct. 24; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon fellowship; Henry Freeman, pastor.

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By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 21

What is the key phrase in the opening verse of our text? In the NIV, the verse reads, "Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised" (v. 1). The key here is "as he had said." The second verse says that in her old age Sarah conceived. God always fulfills his promises. Has God ever let you down or failed in fulfilling a promise made to you? Perhaps we can learn from this lesson how important it is that we share with others what God has done in our lives while fulfilling his word to us.

Sarah's blessing (vv. 1-2). Abraham's wife, Sarah, became pregnant at 99 and gave birth to a male child (vv. 1-2). Do you trust the Word of God? It would appear at times that people profess one thing, but believe something entirely different. People express "undying faith" in God's Word, then turn right around and disobey what God says in the Word. Isaac was not an immaculate conception. Abraham and Sarah proved the Lord. Just as God was found to be faithful in days gone by, you will find him to be faithful in today's hectic world. In your seemingly impossible circumstances, God will answer you.

Sarah's rejoicing (vv. 3-7). What an incredible event! We serve an incredible God. Here is a man, 100 years old, and his wife who is 99, and they have a baby! Even for Old Testament days, this was remarkable. On the eighth day Abraham showed his continued obedience by circumcising his new son "as God commanded him." More and more each day, we should come to realize the true joy that comes in living obediently to God. Verse 3 declares that Abraham named his son Isaac, meaning "laughter." When God told Abraham that his wife would bear him a son, he laughed (17:17). Sarah laughed with disdain when she overheard the Lord tell Abraham that she would have a son. When the promise was fulfilled, they both laughed. "God has brought me to laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me" (v. 6, NIV). This child was to be a joy unto his parents and he himself would be joyful and happy. Jesus said to the Jews, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56, NIV). If the Jews were well-versed in the Scripture, they would have realized that Jesus referred to the birth of Isaac as a type of Christ. The birth of Jesus is a happy time for Christians. Without the miracle birth of Jesus, we would have no cross. Without the cross, we would have no hope.

Sarah's fear (vv. 8-11). Sarah insisted that Abraham cast out Hagar and Ishmael from their household in fear of Ishmael having any part in the inheritance. This birth of Isaac caused fear in Sarah, bitterness in Hagar, and envy in Ishmael. Ishmael had grown to be a young man. He realized that Abraham was his father and saw the prospect of being very wealthy one day. He also could foresee the possibility of being very powerful as a ruler in the land. All of that is shattered with the birth of Isaac. Sarah saw it and demanded that Abraham drive Hagar and her son from the household. This caused another problem, for Abraham had come to love his son. Abraham did not know how to respond to his wife's demands. God is good, and he intervenes.

Abraham responds (vv. 12-14). When we are searching for answers to life's difficult questions, isn't it great to hear from the Lord? Abraham is in a predicament here. He loves Sarah, and he loves Ishmael. God sees his plight and comforts him. "Don't be distressed about the boy and your maid-servant" (v. 12). What a source of comfort that must have been. God directs Abraham to "do as Sarah says." God assures Abraham that he would honor his promise to him through Isaac, and that Ishmael would also become a nation. The next morning Abraham acts in obedience again.

If we can learn anything from this lesson we should be able to learn obedience. Was Sarah being spiteful? Perhaps. Was she being cruel in asking them to be sent from the household? Probably. Was it necessary? Absolutely. Hatred and dissension would have increased and could have led to a far greater tragedy if they had remained. God had declared, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called."

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book Pitfalls in the promised land



By Jewel P. Merritt
Deuteronomy 7, 8

"The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it" (Psalms 24:1, NIV). The Lord is sovereign. The dictionary defines sovereign as one having supreme rank and power. We prefer to think of God as our Father and Shepherd, our merciful, kind, loving, compassionate Friend. He is all those things, but he is more. He is also Judge. The sovereign Lord who created the earth and its people certainly has the right to judge us all. Perhaps these background thoughts will help us as we study these verses from Deuteronomy.

The destruction of paganism (7:2-4a). The Lord God had promised this land to Abraham and to his descendants. As he had led the Israelites through the desert by cloud and fire, so he would lead them in their conquest of Canaan. Through Moses God gave specific orders regarding the pagan inhabitants of that land. "Defeat them — totally destroy them — make no treaties with them — do not intermarry with them." Why such drastic action against the inhabitants of the promised land? "They will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods" (7:4a, NIV). Do you remember from our study last week that God identified himself as a jealous God? He is zealous for our good, wanting only the best for us, and he is the best, the only, God for his people. If the Israelites did not heed the warnings and instructions regarding the Canaanites, "The Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you" (7:4b, NIV). There is a reason for all God instructs us to do. We are to obey.

God's choice of Israel (7:6-8a). Holy people — what picture comes to your mind when you hear those two words? Solemn people who never have any fun? Critical people who find fault with all who disagree with them? Joyful people who have been set apart to serve the Lord? I believe the last definition best describes holy people. Why did God choose Israel as his own and call them holy people? Was it because they were a large nation? No, they were small. Were they deserving of this honor? No. God chose them because of his love and his covenant which he had made.

Remembering God's past dealings (8:2-3). I hope you keep some sort of written reminder of God's working in your life. You may keep a book of prayer requests with the date you first made that request and the date God answered your prayer. You may keep a journal of your daily walk with the Lord. All of us need a reminder of God's faithfulness and steadfast love.

Moses reminded the Israelites of God's dealings with them. For 40 years God had been their faithful leader. He humbled them to test them to see if they would be obedient. He humbled them and caused them to hunger before feeding them. The Lord wanted to teach them that physical bread is not the most important thing. His words are of primary importance.

It is noteworthy, I believe, that before these valuable lessons could be learned, the people had to be humbled. God's great truths take root in teachable spirits.

Warning against forgetting God (8:18-20). For 40 years the Israelites had roamed the desert in old clothes (8:4). When they conquered the Canaanites, the Israelites would be moving into a good land (8:7-8). Moses reminded the people that the ability to get wealth is from God. A solemn warning followed. Forgetting God and worshiping idols would lead to sure destruction.

The Lord is the great "I AM." He was sovereign when Moses lived and led the Israelites. He is sovereign today. Believers are his holy, chosen people. We have been chosen to serve, to proclaim his gospel. Let us be faithful.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work True worship



By Mark A. Rathel
Isaiah 6

A devotional writer, whose name is unknown to me, expressed our attitude in worship through the following words:

I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of him to make me love a black or give food to the hungry. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want the warmth of a womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please.

Isaiah's prophecy contains a twofold emphasis regarding worship. On the one hand, Isaiah denounced worthless worship that does not result in a changed life. On the other hand, Isaiah encountered the transforming power of God through worship. Transformed attitudes, values, affections, and commitments characterize true worship.

True worship focuses on the holiness of God (vv. 1-4). Crisis drives us to our knees in worship. After a long, prosperous reign, the death of King Uzziah sparked a national, and, for Isaiah, a personal crisis; he worshiped. Through worship, Isaiah learned an important truth. Although the throne of Judah was empty, God majestically occupied the throne of the universe.

When Christians have problems we instinctively ask, "How are we going to handle this?" All we can see at the moment is that our checkbook is empty, our spouse is sick, and our children are rebellious. Any time you have a problem, place the problem beside God. Then compare and see whether God or your problem is bigger.

The scene Isaiah witnessed in worship accentuated the holiness of God. "Holy" means separate. God is separate from his creation; he stands above his creation. Holiness came to have a moral connotation. God is holy, that is, he is without sin. Throughout the Bible, God demands that his people be holy.

True worship affects confession (v. 5). Seeing God enabled Isaiah to see himself clearly. Apart from worship, we lack the ability to evaluate ourselves properly. When worship revealed a true picture of himself to Isaiah, he cried out in shock. The word translated "undone" or "lost" means "to be cut off" or "to be destroyed." Isaiah acknowledged that he deserved death as a result of his sin. Isaiah's sin was manifested in his speech. The words we speak reveal our character.

Many paradoxes exist in Christian living. One paradox concerns sin. The closer we walk with God, the deeper consciousness we have of sin in our lives.

Through worship we experience forgiveness (vv. 6-7). In Isaiah's vision, one of the attendant servants of God touched the lips of Isaiah with a fiery coal from the altar. Throughout the Old Testament, fire symbolized purification. The burning coal purged the sin from Isaiah's life. Because Isaiah was unable to do anything about his sinful condition, God graciously took the initiative and acted.

Forgiveness is always painful and costly. Forgiveness is painful to the one forgiven because of the realization of the hurt he or she has inflicted. The one forgiving, however, bears the deepest pain. Through the cross, God provided forgiveness at extreme cost and pain. In true worship, we are reminded of the cost of forgiveness.

True worship leads to a commitment (v. 8). Moses and Jeremiah resisted the call of God in service to their people. In contrast, Isaiah volunteered to be God's spokesman to his people. Gratitude for his cleansing, no doubt, motivated Isaiah to volunteer. An additional factor in Isaiah's commitment was a burden he felt for his people. Through worship, Isaiah realized that the people were unclean. True worship leads to obedient service.

God called you to be a witness. How have you responded? If you refuse God's call, have you truly worshiped?

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

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 Ms. LaDel Graham, Randy
 and Mickey
Carolyn Warren
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 Ms. Georgia Clarke
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Mrs. Diana Jones, Child Care Worker on our India Nunnery Campus in Jackson, assists Shastity as she colors.

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**SEPT. 1, 1993 -
SEPT. 30, 1993**

(to be continued)

capsules

TILTON LEAVING AIRWAVES: TULSA, Okla. (EP) — Televangelist Robert Tilton will go off the air Oct. 29 because of declining donations, his attorney, J.C. Joyce, recently announced. In addition, Tilton's Word of Faith ministry staff in Dallas will be cut from 800 to 32 by Jan. 1, he said. Along with a decline in donations — from \$7 million a month to \$2 million, Joyce said the number of television stations carrying Tilton's program has declined, and he has lost an estimated 85% of his viewing audience. He promised that all current television contracts — estimated at \$500,000 — would be paid. Tilton's ministry troubles started after the airing of a November 1991 segment on ABC's "Prime Time Live," which highlighted Tilton's lavish lifestyle and claimed that mail was discarded once donations were removed.

BJC NAMES BRENT WALKER GENERAL COUNSEL: WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs board unanimously elected J. Brent Walker, BJC associate general counsel, as general counsel during its annual meeting Oct. 4 at First Church in Washington. Walker, who joined the BJC staff in 1989, will succeed Oliver S. "Buzz" Thomas, 38, who resigned after eight years with the BJC to return to his native Tennessee. Walker, 43, officially will begin his new duties Nov. 1. James M. Dunn, BJC executive director, also appointed Walker as associate director of the agency. BJC's board also approved a 1994 budget of \$790,000, a \$15,000 increase from 1993; and okayed a bylaw change that allows BJC membership for state and regional bodies. Membership previously has been restricted to national bodies.

HMB BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW OFFICE BUILDING: ATLANTA (BP) — A wooded lot was the site of Oct. 11 ground-breaking ceremonies signaling the next step toward new Home Mission Board offices. The building, to be on a 34-acre lot in the north Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta, is scheduled to be completed in 1995 to coincide with the agency's 150th anniversary and the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta. The new property was purchased for \$1.3 million, and a \$13.5 million building contract was awarded in September. Three years ago the agency sold its midtown Atlanta property for \$14.5 million. That money plus its investment income will be used for the new building, said Larry Lewis, HMB president. No Cooperative Program or Annie Armstrong Easter Offering money will be used for the building, he added.

SBC ATTENDANCE IN HOUSTON LAST JUNE: Nine hundred nine Mississippi messengers attend the SBC in Houston last June. Texas, as host state, provided 4,554, or 25% of the total 17,768. Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina had over 1,200 each at about 7%. Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi were all in the 900 category. Maine and Montana had one messenger each. First Church, Clinton, and First Church, Picayune, had 10 messengers each. Harmony of Crystal Springs, First Church and Main Street, Hattiesburg, First, Jackson, and First, Pascagoula, sent eight messengers each to the Houston meeting. An estimated 700 Mississippi churches were represented at the SBC. That number is about one-third of SBC churches in the state.

BOB ALLEN TAPPED BY ABP: JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Bob Allen of Baltimore, Md., has been named associate executive editor of the independent news service Associated Baptist Press. Allen, 37, has been editor of the *True Union*, newsjournal of the Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware, since 1988. He will join the staff of Associated Baptist Press Nov. 1, handling editing, writing, and administrative duties for the twice-weekly news service. R.G. Puckett, ABP chairman and editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, newsjournal of North Carolina Baptists, said, "Bob brings to the position all the credentials we need to guarantee the free flow of information in the Baptist world."

BILLY GRAHAM TO HOLD ATLANTA CRUSADE IN '94: ATLANTA (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham will hold his first Southeastern crusade in seven years next October when he speaks five days in Atlanta's Georgia Dome, he announced Sept. 29. Atlanta crusade leadership will include former President Jimmy Carter who will serve as honorary chair, and former United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor, Andrew Young, who will chair the advisory committee. Graham, 74, asked for prayer for the crusade, Oct. 26-30, 1994, adding that his greatest burden in any city is the need for revival and renewal within churches.

PHILIPPINE BIBLE COURSE REACHES PRISONERS: MUNTINGLUPA, Philippines (FMB) — Hundreds of inmates face uncertainty and fear about the future at Camp Sampaguita, a medium security compound at the national penitentiary in Muntinglupa. But a message of hope shines through for them in the ministry of Baptist prison chaplain Jimmy Lim. He was allowed to add a course on "Christian Living" to the camp's vocational training. Using a Bible correspondence course published by Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines, missionaries Allen Hill and Gerald Davis began helping Lim teach 80 prisoners. They prayed inmates would accept Christ as Lord and gain a solid foundation to live as Christians — even in prison. Recently 63 men received diplomas and a New Testament for completing the course.

Orlando pastor unapologetic about Cooperative Program support

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — During a time when First Church of Orlando, Fla., was purchasing and constructing buildings valued at \$39 million, pastor Jim Henry challenged his congregation to remain faithful in mission giving beyond their land and walls.

As a result of that commitment, the Orlando church has consistently set the pace for other churches in giving through the Cooperative Program.

With a pledge to give 14% of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program, the 10,000-member congregation in 1991 and 1992 gave more money to the cooperative mission effort

than any other church in the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1990 the congregation placed second and in 1989 third among all Southern Baptist churches.

The record giving can be credited "to our people having a heart for missions," Henry said. "We made it a priority to give to missions. The people gave and were faithful."

Their commitment to the Cooperative Program at a time when finances were stretched was a "sacrifice," diverting funds from ministries within the congregation, Henry noted.

But it was a "deliberate choice," he said, "teaching people

that the tithe comes off the top."

But ultimately, the pastor "will set the tone" for missions support, Henry said. "They've got to see and feel your heart and know that you are personally strong and committed to Southern Baptists and the Cooperative Program."

That reflection is not difficult for members to see when talking to Henry. "I was raised a Southern Baptist and am a product of a lot of other people's generosity.

"I see the benefit of what the Cooperative Program does," he said. "I haven't seen anything to match it. I think it's the best way to do what we're doing."

Islamic expert says Baptists need to look beyond stereotypes of Muslims

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In order for Christians to reach out to Muslims, it is important to understand them and their views of Jesus Christ, said George Braswell, one of the leading Islamic experts in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Braswell, professor of missions at Southeastern Seminary was the first Southern Baptist missionary to Iran and holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Braswell said understanding the

Islamic worldview is important to formulating a response to that worldview.

"It doesn't change the gospel message, but it helps to frame that message in a way that we hope God will use to bring them to a saving knowledge of him," Braswell said.

"For example, Muslims speak very highly of Jesus," Braswell said. "They say he was born of a virgin and view him as a miracle worker. We need to understand that Muslims know something about

Jesus, they just don't know enough about Jesus."

Braswell said the Koran calls Jesus the Messiah and the Word of God, yet, they do not understand the significance of those titles.

"The Koran does not call Mohammed the Messiah and the Word of God," Braswell said. "If Baptists can begin to understand that Muslims say a whole lot more about God and Jesus than they even know they're saying, then we can take the Bible and we can also say, 'Look at your own Koran! Look at what you are saying about Jesus. You are saying more than you ever said about Mohammed.'"

Despite the good things Muslims know about Jesus, Braswell pointed out they cannot tolerate the central concept of our faith, that Jesus died on the cross.

"You can't have a resurrection unless you have a crucifixion, therefore, Muslims deny two of the great components of our biblical Christian faith — crucifixion and resurrection," Braswell said.

Baptists need to be sure that stereotypes do not get in the way of the truth, Braswell said. Otherwise, we will "write off" over a billion people.



Wynndale Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 15th anniversary Oct. 24, beginning at 11 a.m. Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, MBCB, will speak. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. An afternoon service will feature Fred Tarpley, former director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association. The church began in the garage of Richard White, with 28 present in its first service. Membership has grown to 650. Charles Gentry has been pastor of the church since its inception. Members shown above, left to right, are: Mary Catherine Gentry, Dianne Ainsworth, Robert Jordan, Charles Gentry, Carol Jordan, Pat Green, and Tock Shelton, seated.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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TNH PKY FZ JZOCZEZY UNBZB, FZ INMOY PKEZ
JZOCZEZY UZ: TNH PZ IHNAZ NT UZ.

LNPW TCEZ: TNHAF-BCS

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven:Twenty-Six.

Baptist Record

005-DTM
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COMMERCE ST SUITE 401 50 00
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October 21, 1993